



### Mud-Proof Forage Chopper

Here's a "made it myself" idea that saved the day for New York dairyman Merlin Atwell during the unusually wet summer and fall of 1977. Unable to green chop corn at all with a one-row New Holland 707 chopper mounted on his 2 wheel drive tractor, he took the 3 pt. hitch arms from a Deere 520 tractor and used them to hang the 707 chopper on a 23-year-old International TD-9 crawler tractor. He and a neighbor, Robert Perry, had purchased the New Holland 707 chopper several years before, keeping it on standby for a wet season emergency when larger choppers normally used can't be operated.

During the wet '77 season, they ran their one-row chopper until it finally got so muddy that their conventional two-wheel drive tractors couldn't go anymore. Putting the chopper on the TD-9 saved the day, says Merlin. "We were able to keep green chopping every day and got by until it finally dried up enough so we could go back into the fields with our 2-wheel drive tractors. But, when it was real muddy, our crawler rig and neighboring 4-wheel drive tractors all equipped with one row choppers — were the only rigs able to do any chopping at all.

### "Home-Brewed" Manure Deodorizer

"There are lots of manure deodorizers around, but this one really works," claims Harvey Riley, a Nebraska farmer who has developed his own home-brewed deodorizer. It's a mixture of chemicals that can be bought at a local drug store, but Riley has a patent pending so contents of the recipe can't be revealed.

It takes one gal. of the deodorizer to treat 1,000 gals. of manure, says Riley, which converts it to an odorless material. It also can be sprayed on cattle feedlots to reduce odors, and to prevent flies from laying eggs in the manure.

"In pits that have a manure pump, it's applied through the pump. When emptied into a pit or lagoon, the material spreads through the slurry and treats the entire contents of the pit."

For the skeptics who don't believe there is any remedy for manure odor, Riley offers "the evidence of many satisfied customers. I'm treating about 75 manure pits in a 200 mile radius of my farm. The treatment lasts 4-6 months, and most people

have me treat twice a year. One customer has had me back for the fourth time," says Riley.

At a cost of about \$5 a gal., an average pit can be deodorized for \$300. Some of the other manure treatments on the market would run into thousands of dollars for the same size pit, he told FARM SHOW.

Riley's odor control chemical is still considered experimental. The University of Nebraska has done some testing of it, and there are no state or federal regulations prohibiting its use. However, at present, Riley must do the mixing and also the treatment himself.

He says he has enough experience with it now to know where it works the best: "It does the most effective job in a lagoon trickle system, and we are finding that it's a good idea to put the chemical in the pit before manure is pumped into it."

For information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup; Harvey Riley, Route 1, Milford, Neb. 86405 (ph 402 761-2496).

### Old School Bus Used for Hauling Hogs

Take your hogs to market in a school bus?

Stan Homan, of Fulton, Mich., finds it's cheaper than using a truck.

Homan used to rely on a trucker to haul his hogs to market but found that he didn't have the flexibility to sell on markets paying the best prices. That's when he decided he needed to transport his own.

"I shopped around for a truck and couldn't find anything under \$2,000," he says. "So, I bought two old school buses for \$200 each. With parts from one, I could keep the other running."

Homan tore out the seats and put in gates to separate the hogs. He can haul about 55 hogs in a load.

All this happened about eight years ago. After a couple years, the first buses wore out. Homan bought another one because the system worked so well. He

raises 2,500 hogs a year and still buses them all to market in one of his converted school buses.

### Beet Harvester Kit

If you're a sugarbeet grower and own a Deere 4310 "Ferris Wheel" beet harvester, you'll be interested in a new door kit designed by Darrel Yoder and Gale Maust.

The do-it-yourself door is installed in the front, lower wall section of the harvester holding tank. The door springs forward and upward to allow for rapid tank unloading.

The door kit allows the operator to increase the tank flow when beets are large, or when mud or weeds cause beets to lodge in the opening.

The door kit is available from Deere dealers, or from Maust Enterprises, 8639 Pigeon Rd., Bayport, Mich. 48720



### "Manurelage" Made From Corn Stalks, Manure

An Illinois cattle and hog farmer puts up a feed he calls "manurelage", and it could be a useful idea for other livestock farmers.

"Manurelage" is corn stalk silage soaked down with liquid hog manure. "Some of the neighbors thought I was crazy, but it works," says Harold Wilhelms, of Shannon, Ill., who has been preserving cornstalks this way for the last two years. He and his herdsman, Lee Eden, decided to try it when they realized that hog manure has enough nutrients in it to balance a low energy beef ration.

After experimenting on a small scale, they found that 30 days fermentation produced a stalkage with a pleasant, nut-like aroma but with no hint of the smell of manure. The cattle liked it. For the past two seasons, Wilhelms has used the method for putting up silage in a trench silo. He puts in a layer of chopped stalks, sprays it with liquid manure from his pit, and

then spreads over another layer of chopped stalks. The moisture content is about 50 percent.

The concept of "manurelage" is to help increase the feed value of the cattle ration rather than a method to get rid of hog manure. It uses only a small fraction of the large amount produced by Wilhelm's 4,000 hog operation.

"Other farmers are curious about the idea, but not very many have the equipment and the setup to do it on their own farm," Wilhelms told FARM SHOW.

He has found this a good way to utilize his stalks for his 100 beef cows. He hasn't tried mixing hog manure with oat straw or any other kind of crop residue.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold Wilhelms, Route 1, Shannon, Ill. 61078 (ph 815 235-9343).